



Two weekends for East Finchley Open

This year's East Finchley Summer Open will take place over two weekends: Saturday 30 June - Sunday 1 July and the following weekend of Saturday 7 July - Sunday 8 July.

This year's event should have a real creative "buzz" about it. A wide range of fine art and superb craft will be on display in the artists' homes, providing a unique opportunity to meet the artists and buy or commission original artworks, without the costs normally incurred in galleries.

A number of additional exhibitions will take place (see list below) where you can get a preview of the eclectic artwork ahead of the Open House weekends in July. Most of the venues are within easy walking distance of each other and entry to the artists' Open Houses and other venues is free. There will be additional displays in shop windows on the High Road, such as Kokos.

Maps of the different venues will be delivered to homes in N2 nearer the time as well as being available on the website www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk and in East Finchley Library.

The East Finchley Open was launched in 2003, offering an exciting point of contact for artists and craftspeople living in or around N2. The EFO's first challenge was to open members' homes and studios to share their art with the local community, an event recreated annually with increasing success. More than 20,000 people see EFO events and activities

each year.

The EFO is an established and inclusive group of local artists and crafts people, working in an exciting range of media. Members include ceramicists, photographers, painters working in diverse styles, a wicker basket weaver who grows her own materials in East Finchley, jewellery makers, sculptors and textile designers, as well as calligraphers, tapestry designers and silk painters and a milliner!

You can also meet the artists of East Finchley and see some of their work at the East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on 24 June.

Additional exhibitions:

The Noble Sage Gallery, 2a Fortis Green Road, 13-17 June: an eclectic mix of art showing a sample of work from each EFO artist.

Chorak, 122 High Road, 1 June-28 July: EFO members' paintings, prints and photographic work.

Jennie Mann, 63a Church Lane, 30 June-1 July and 7-8 July: EFO members' sculptural and ceramic work.

Phoenix Cinema, High Road, throughout June: members' paintings, prints and photographic work.

Monkey Face Bar, 114-116 High Road, throughout June: members' paintings, prints and photographic work.

Get your pet micro-chipped for a fiver

By Caroline Broome
Your local Finchley Golders Green and Hendon RSPCA clinic offers a year-round pet micro-chipping service, but for the month of June only, we are offering this service for £5 per pet (usual price £10).

The RSPCA Small Animal Clinic is in Park Road, East Finchley, and opens on Mondays and Thursdays from 6.30-7.30pm.

Cats, dogs and rabbits are the most likely candidates. Just take your pet along to one of our regular clinic sessions in June or telephone 020 8365 3910 during clinic hours for more details.

On Sunday 24 June we will have a stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Park, where in addition to fund raising, we offer you the opportunity to talk to committee trustees about what's involved in becoming a volunteer.

Did you know?

Welsh mathematician Robert Recorde invented the = sign in 1557 because he was bored with writing "is equal to" in his equations. He said he chose the two lines because "noe 2 thynges can be moare equalle".



Babies love bubbles! Photo by Diana Cormack

Stepping into new experiences

By Diana Cormack

After having their first babies three years ago, local friends Jo Girling, Sonia Lapwood and Karen Roberts got together to set up a parent and baby group. This was briefly interrupted when their second children came along, but has been up and running again since last October.

Stepping Stones is held on Thursday mornings in the Baptist Church on Creighton Avenue. Between 10.30am and 11.15am children under three years of age can experience such things as songs and rhymes with musical accompaniment, percussion instruments, puppets, parachute games and stories as well as starting to develop their social skills through mixing with others. It also gives parents and carers the chance to talk and relax with adults and perhaps get some advice and support should they need it.

All are welcome at the group which is run on a drop-in basis, though there is a maximum

limit of 20 youngsters. Former teacher Jo is the storyteller whilst the musical skills of Sonia, who used to work in the fashion industry, come very much into play. When *THE ARCHER* visited, Karen, also in the fashion trade, delighted the children as she activated a bubble machine in the large and airy meeting room.

As well as supplying a variety of activities, healthy fruit snacks are provided. *Stepping Stones* interactive playgroup costs £5 per session or £45 for a block of ten with concessionary rates for siblings. For further information drop in at the church for a leaflet or call 07957 278860 or 07712 890884.

Midnight Walk for women to help children's hospice

On Saturday 30 June Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, in conjunction with the North London Hospice, is running a Midnight Walk for women only. Noah's Ark hopes to have over 200 women taking part to raise money for their cause. Entry costs £15, which includes the registration fee and a commemorative T-shirt.

The circular route connects both sites of the North London Hospice, starting at St Michael's Hospital, Enfield and continuing to the North London Hospice, Woodside Park which will be the 6.5 mile mark and half way point for those wishing to do the full 13 miles.

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is a charity set up in 1999 with the aim of establishing a

children's hospice service for youngsters with life-limiting conditions living in North London and South Hertfordshire.

In 2006 a new and exciting phase started, with the beginnings of a community service enabling the charity to fund a Respite Nursery Nurse who offers help and support within the family's own home. It is hoped that one day its community services will be complemented by an 'in-house' facility. With almost no financial backing from the Government, however, Children's Hospices must raise all the money themselves

to build and run these essential lifelines.

That's why they need your support. If you have the time, energy, or indeed, money to help Noah's Ark achieve its aim please do look through its website or get in contact with them. There are so many ways you can help them make a difference.

Why not start by joining them for the Midnight Walk on 30 June? Contact Priya on 020 8449 8877, email info@noahsarkhospice.org.uk or visit the website noahsarkhospice.org.uk.

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Dog Share

Local greyhound owner who has to travel a lot would like to share her dog with a caring person or family. If you are interested, please call Sarah on: 07958 927 934

LOOKING FOR HOMES

Many cats and kittens needing good homes; some single, some in pairs.



If you think you can help get in touch with the local cat charity

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48 HIGH ROAD EAST FINCHLEY
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